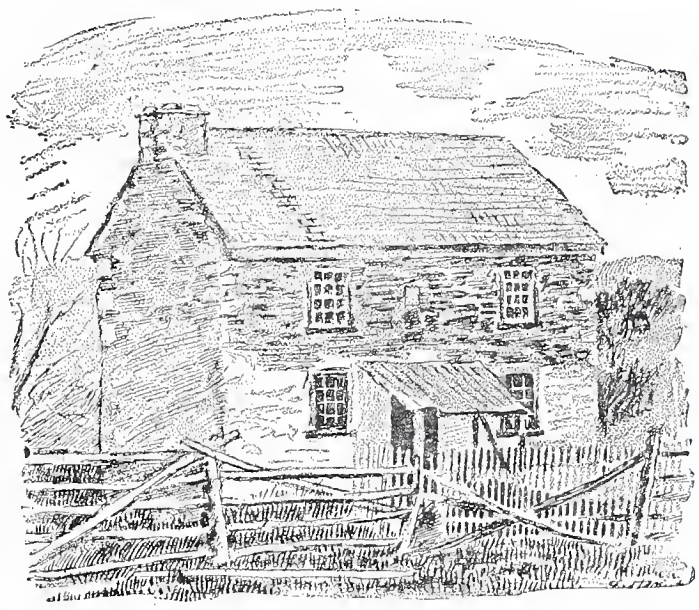
1851 Commemoration 1911

of

The Christiana Riot

and

The Treason Trials of 1851



Under the Auspices of

The Lancaster County Historical Society

Christiana, Pa., Saturday, September 9, 1911

Souvenir Program

The Christiana Riot.

1851 1911.

Out of the strident clash of hopes and fears
The times have builded music; where of late
Passion strode fierce, and wrath and white-lipped hate
Met bitterly in agony and tears,
Meet we in kindness. Cancelled are arrears
Of debt and credit. It were ill to prate
Of rights and wrongs; may we commemorate
More than the feuds of the forgotten years.
Great God! which one of us shall cast a stone
At bygone riot? Have we too not set
Our hands against thy laws? Is nought our own
That cries for pardon? Are no tear drops wet?
Judge of the Nations grant us to atone—
And of thy mercy teach us to forget.

F. Lyman Windolph.

Arrangements Committee.

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Benjamin Eavenson,
Peter Woods,
Samuel Whitson,
William L. Jackson,
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H. C. Hopkins,
Rev. R. F. Wright,
Chas. Dingee,
Henry Preston,
S. R. Slaymaker,
A. K. Hostetter.

Chronology.

First Federal Fugitive Slave Law Approved..... February 12, 1793.
Edward Gorsuch, born..... April 17, 1795.
Pennsylvania Statute Regulating Return of Fugitive Slaves..... 1826.
Prigg Case Decided By United States Supreme Court..... 1842.
Pennsylvania Statute Repealing Act of 1826..... 1847.
Escape of Gorsuch Slaves..... November, 1849.
"Informer" Padgett's Letter to Gorsuch..... August 29, 1851.
Gorsuch Gets Warrants..... September 9, 1851.
Officials Start For Christiana..... September 9, 1851.
Attempt to Execute Warrants, Riot, Death of Edw. Gorsuch and Wounding of Dickinson and Joshua Gorsuch..... September 11, 1851.
First Arrests..... September 12, 1851.
Hearing of Prisoners at Lancaster..... September 23, 1851.
Judge Kane's Charge to Grand Jury..... September 29, 1851.
Indictments for Treason found and remitted to Circuit Court ..... October 6, 1851.
Venire for 108 Jurors..... October 9, 1851.
U. S. Circuit Court Convened..... November 24, 1851.
Castner Hanway Arraigned..... November 25, 1851.
Jury Finally Sworn..... November 28, 1851.
Defense Opens..... December 2, 1851.
Testimony Concluded..... December 5, 1851.
Jury Charged and Verdict of "Not Guilty" Returned ..... December 11, 1851.
Argument on Motion that U. S. pay costs for Hanway..... December 17, 1851.
Indictments In Lancaster County Q. S. of Hanway et al. for Riot and Resisting Officer.....January Session, 1852.
All Riot Indictments and Bill *vs.* H. H. Kline for Perjury ignored with County for Costs..... January, 1852.
Case of U. S. *vs.* Sam. Williams tried at Philadelphia and concluded by Verdict of "Not Guilty."..... February 4, 1852.
Death of Dickinson Gorsuch.....August 2, 1882.
Death of Castner Hanway.....May 26, 1893.
Death of Elijah Lewis.....October 18, 1884.
Death of Joseph Scarlet.....July 8, 1882.

Names of the Jury

Who Tried the Treason Case of United States vs. Castner Hanway.

1. Robert Elliott, farmer, Ickesburg, Perry County, aged 69.
2. James Wilson, gentleman, Fairfield, Adams County, aged 73.
3. Thomas Connelly, carpenter, Beaver Meadow, Carbon County, aged 54.
4. Peter Martin, surveyor, Ephrata, Lancaster County, aged 46.
5. Robert Smith, gentleman, Gettysburg, Adams County, aged 57.
6. William R. Saddler, farmer, York Sulphur Springs, Adams County, aged 41.
7. James M. Hopkins, farmer, Conowingo Furnace, Drumore Township, Lancaster County, aged 50.
8. John Junkin, farmer, Landisburg, Perry County, aged 56.
9. Solomon Newman, smith, Milford, Pike County, aged 48.
10. Jonathan Wainwright, merchant, Philadelphia, aged 66.
11. Ephraim Fenton, farmer, Upper Dublin, Montgomery County, aged 52.
12. James Cowden, merchant, Columbia, Lancaster County, aged 36.

Average age of jurors: 53.

CASTNER HANWAY. ELIJAH LEWIS. JOSEPH SCARLET,

TAKEN SOON AFTER THE TREASON TRIALS.

Law and Liberty.

From John G. Whittier's "Stanzas for the Times," 1850.

I hear a voice: "Thus saith the Law,
  Let Love be dumb;
Clasping her liberal hands in awe,
Let sweet-lipped Charity withdraw
  From hearth and home."

I hear another voice: "The poor
  Are thine to feed;
Turn not the outcast from thy door,
Nor give to bonds and wrong once more
  Whom God hath freed."

Dear Lord! between that law and Thee
  No choice remains;
Yet not untrue to man's decree,
Though spurning its rewards, is he
  Who bears its pains.

Not mine Sedition's trumpet-blast
  And threatening word;
I read the lesson of the Past,
That firm endurance wins at last
  More than the sword.

O clear-eyed Faith, and Patience thou
  So calm and strong!
Lend strength to weakness, teach us how
The sleepless eyes of God look through
  This night of wrong!

Killed.

EDWARD GORSUCH.
("He Died For the Law.")

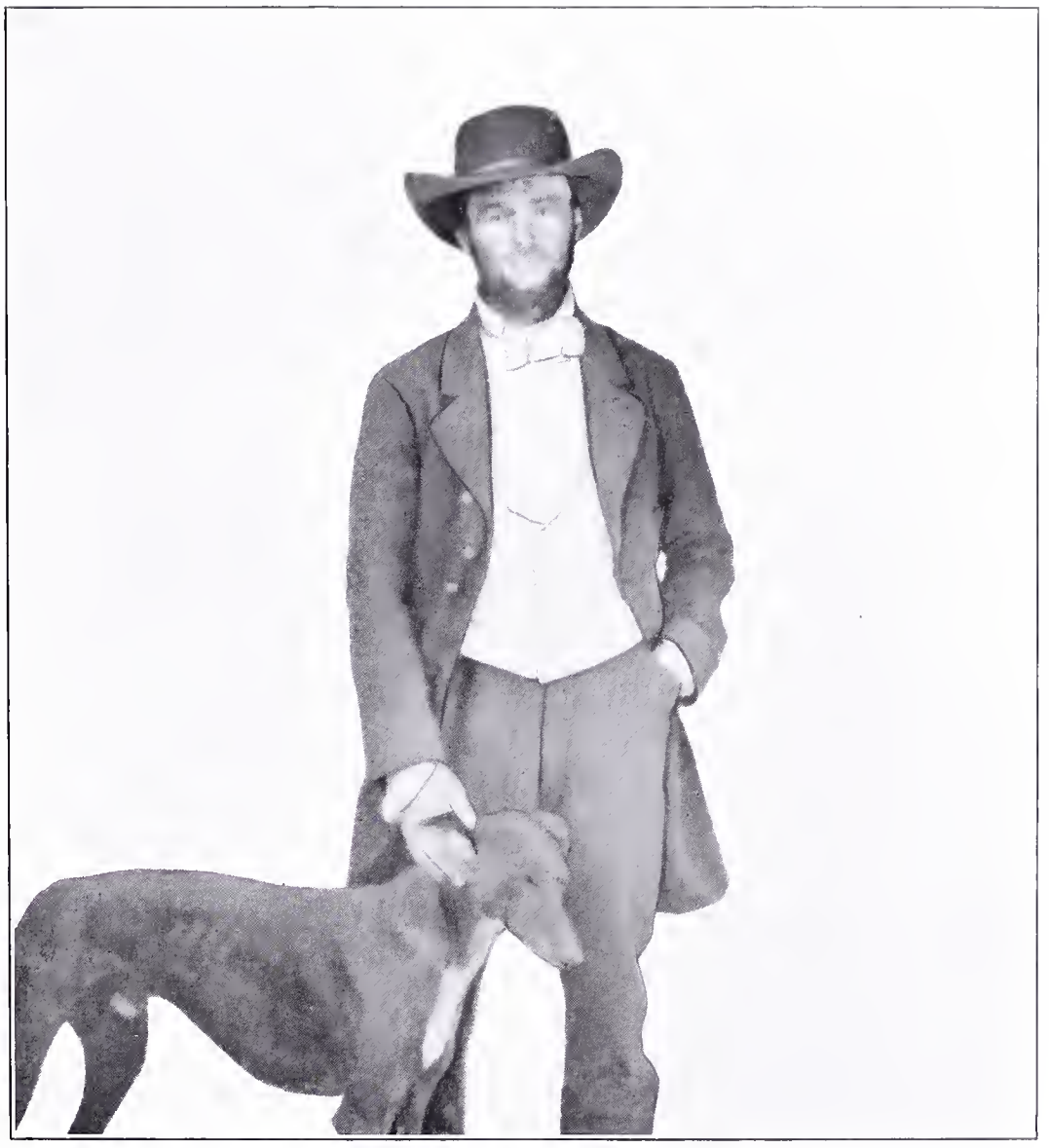
Wounded.

DICKINSON GORSUCH,
JOSHUA GORSUCH.

Indicted for Treason.

1. CASTNER HANWAY.
Tried and Acquitted.
("He Suffered For Freedom.")

2. Joseph Scarlet.
3. Elijah Lewis.
4. James Jackson.
5. George Williams.
6. Jacob Moore.
7. George Reed.
8. Benjamin Johnson.
9. Daniel Caulsberry.
10. Alson Pernsley.
11. William Brown, 2nd.
12. Henry Green.
13. Elijah Clark.
14. John Holliday.
15. William Williams.
16. Benjamin Pindergast.
17. John Morgan.
18. Ezekiel Thompson.
19. Thomas Butler.
20. Collister Wilson.
21. John Jackson.
22. William Brown.
23. Isaiah Clarkson.
24. Henry Sims.
25. Charles Hunter.
26. Lewis Gates.
27. Peter Woods.
28. Lewis Clarkson.
29. Nelson Carter.
30. William Parker.
31. John Berry.
32. William Berry.
33. Samuel Williams.
34. Josh Hammond.
35. Henry Curtis.
36. Washington Williams.
37. William Thomas.
38. Nelson Ford.



DICKINSON GORSUCH.

AS A MARYLAND FARMER AND SUPPORTER OF THE UNION DURING THE WAR.

JOHN W. ASHMEAD.

U. S. ATTORNEY WHO CONDUCTED THE PROSECUTION.

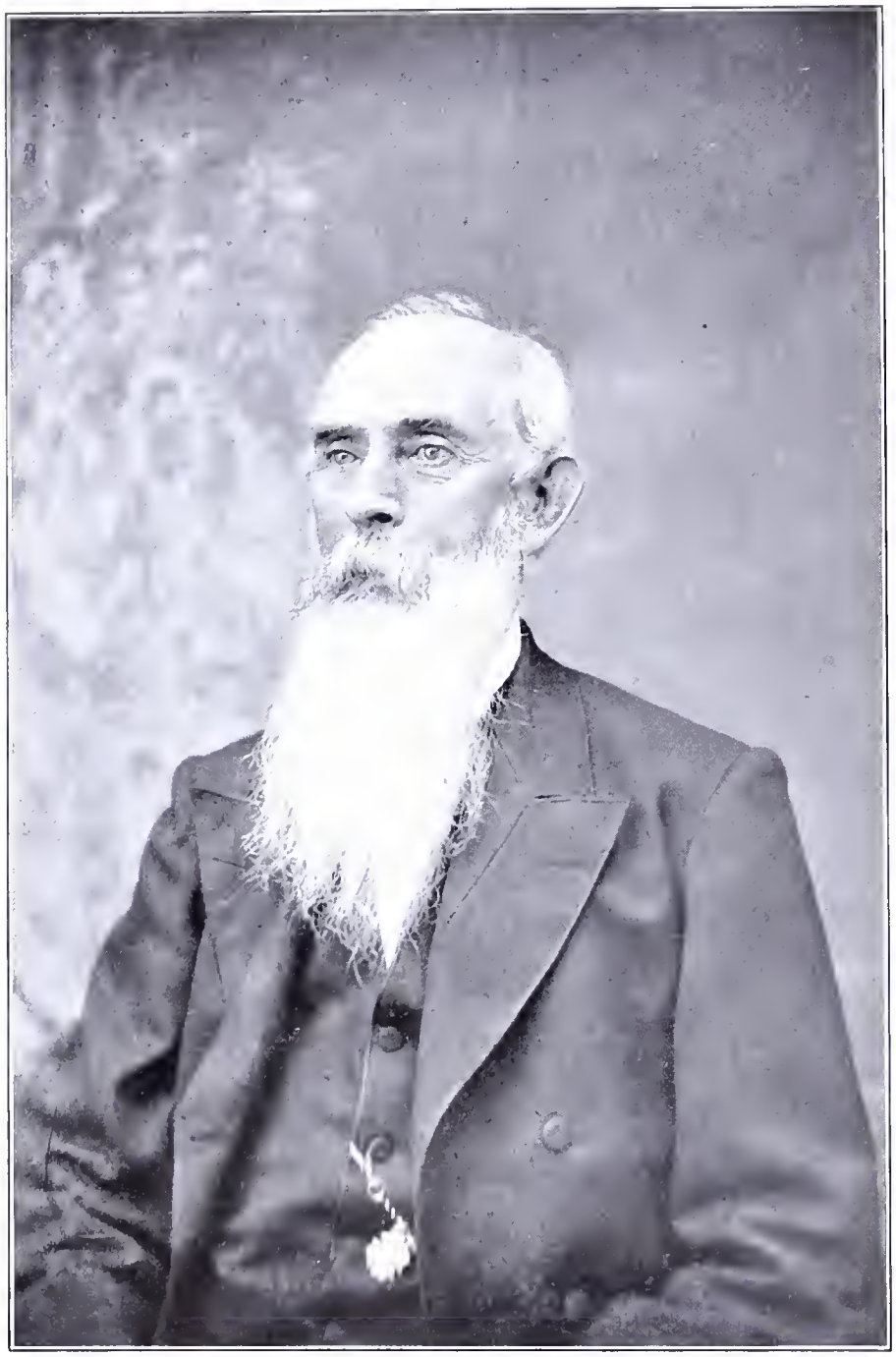
Washington December 25, 1857

My Dear Sir,

I thank you for the kind remembrance manifested by your sending me a copy of your opening argument on the Dred Scott Decision. While I cannot but rejoice in the result of that trial as a new assurance of the security of Popular Liberty, I am not unable to appreciate the ability with which you have maintained the untenable position which the Government was made to assume. The argument is highly logical and eloquent, and I cannot better express my good wishes for you and for the Country than by expressing a hope that it may be the good fortune of the cause of truth and justice hereafter to enlist you on their side.

I am, my dear Sir,
Very respectfully & truly
Your friend,
William H. Seward.

John W. Ashmead Esq.
District Attorney of the United States
Philadelphia.



CASTNER HANWAY.

TRIED FOR TREASON AND ACQUITTED.

COMMEMORATION

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE

LANCASTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OF

THE CHRISTIANA RIOT

AND

THE TREASON TRIALS OF 1851

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OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

CHRISTIANA, LANCASTER COUNTY, PA.

SEPTEMBER 9, 1911

In Prison for Treason.

[One of the finest stanzas in American poetry was inspired by the imprisonment of Hanway and others for treason. While they were in Moyamensing, John G. Whittier wrote and published his "Lines" to them. Horace E. Scudder, in his excellent and complete "Cambridge edition" of Whittier, classes the following with three other poems, "called out by the popular movement of Free States men to occupy the territory of Kansas." In this he is mistaken. This poem, now entitled "For Righteousness' Sake," was originally "inscribed to Friends under arrest for treason against the slave power," and was directed especially to Hanway, Lewis and Scarlet. The concluding stanza is deeply imbedded in popular appreciation of the best in our national literature.]

The age is dull and mean. Men creep,
  Not walk; with blood too pale and tame
  To pay the debt they owe to shame;
Buy cheap, sell dear; eat, drink, and sleep
  Down-pillowed, deaf to moaning want;
Pay tithes for soul-insurance; keep
  Six days to Mammon, one to Cant.

In such a time, give thanks to God,
  That somewhat of the holy rage
  With which the prophets in their age
On all its decent seemings trod,
  Has set your feet upon the lie,
That man and ox and soul and clod
  Are market stock to sell and buy!

The hot words from your lips, my own,
  To caution trained, might not repeat;
  But if some tares among the wheat
Of generous thought and deed were sown,
  No common wrong provoked your zeal;
The silken gauntlet that is thrown
  In such a quarrel rings like steel.

The brave old strife the fathers saw
For Freedom calls for men again
Like those who battled not in vain
For England's Charter, Alfred's law;
And right of speech and trial just
Wage in your name their ancient war
With venal courts and perjured trust.

God's ways seem dark, but soon or late,
They touch the shining hills of day;
The evil cannot brook delay,
The good can well afford to wait.
Give ermined knaves their hour of crime,
Ye have the future grand and great,
The safe appeal of Truth to Time!

Order of Exercises.

Saturday, September 9, 1911.

I.

FORENOON—DEDICATION OF MONUMENT.

10 A.M. The people of Christiana and vicinity, all guests and visitors and others interested, will assemble at the east entrance to the New Subway, at 10 A.M., when the following order of exercises will be observed:

1. Invocation ..... Rev. R. F. Wright, of Zion A. M. E. Church.
2. Music, "America" ..... Christiana Cornet Band accompanying.
3. Presentation ..... B. C. Atlee, Esq.
4. Music, "Star Spangled Banner".... Christiana Cornet Band accompanying.
5. Acknowledgment ..... Charles S. Slokom, Burgess of Christiana.
6. Unveiling of the Monument ..... By representatives of the families of Castner Hanway, Edward Gorsuch, Joseph Scarlet, Elijah Lewis, Hon. John K. Kane, John W. Ashmead, Anthony E. Roberts, Peter Woods, and other prominent figures in the events of 1851.
7. Music, "Dixie" ..... Christiana Cornet Band.
8. Doxology, "Old Hundred."
9. Benediction ..... Rev. A. T. Stewart.

II.

11 A.M. Automobile trip to the "Riot House": by Bridge Street to Noble Road; thence to Second Cross Roads, turning to right at road to Brinton's Mill, down hill to corner of New Valley Road; south of bridge turn to right and by John H. Ranck's and B. F. Leaman's (on which farm Hanway's "red mill" stood—note Hanway's house, now vacant, on right), Samuel Sheaffer's, Agnes Lantz's (note streamer at site of old Riot House), Levi Pownall's heirs (house on right where Dickinson Gorsuch was nursed), Edward Johnson's and Joseph S. Davis's, to Noble Road; up road through P. R. R. arch to Bridge Street and Christiana.

III.

11.30 A.M. to 1.30 P.M. Luncheon. Served in the basement of M. E. Church, by ladies of the Church. Tickets for sale at door on Bridge Street.

IV.

1.30 P.M. Parade. The School Children, Town Council and School Directors of Christiana Borough, and the School Directors of Sadsbury Township, the G. A. R., Knights of the Golden Eagle, the Independent Order of Red Men and the Christiana Cornet Band will assemble at the Borough School House, at 1.30 P.M., and proceed thence up Bridge Street to corner of Bridge Street and Harrison Avenue.

Burger's Fourth Regiment Band and Company K, of the Fourth Regiment, N. G. P., will arrive on the trolley car from Lancaster at 1.50 P.M., and the procession will be formed as follows:

1.

Chief Marshall, Dr. L. W. Pownall.

AIDES.

Detachment of State Constabulary.
Burger's Fourth Regiment Band, Aaron W. Eshelman, leader.
Company K, Fourth Regiment, N. G. P., Captain Q. O. Reitzel commanding.
Ross Post, No. 358, G. A. R.

2.

Detachment of State Constabulary.
Christiana Borough Councils.
Christiana School Board.
Sadsbury Township School Directors.
School Children of Christiana Borough.
Christiana Cornet Band.
Independent Order of Red Men.
Knights of the Golden Eagle.

Marching Tunes and Marches.—"Onward, Christian Soldiers," "Marching Through Georgia," "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" ("John Brown's Body"), etc.

The parade will then move over the following

ROUTE OF PARADE.

Out Harrison Avenue to Pine Street; Pine to Elizabeth; Elizabeth to Green; Green to Subway; Subway to Gay; Gay to Bridge; Bridge to Slokom Avenue, to Elm Street; Elm to Broad; Broad to Bridge; Bridge to Water; out Water to Whiteside's Meadow and Hanway's Mill, where the literary and historical exercises of the day will be held, as follows:

V.

PROGRAMME.

Opening Prayer ..... REV. T. S. MINKER, of Christiana M. E. Church.
Music, "My Old Kentucky Home" ..... VOCAL CHORUS.
Accompanied by Burger's Band.
Address of Welcome ..... THOMAS WHITSON, ESQ.
Music, "Columbia, the Gem of the Ocean" .... BURGER'S BAND.
Introduction ..... Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements.
Commemoration Address ..... REV. DR. HENRY J. COUDEN, Chaplain of the House of Representatives of the United States.
Music, "Columbia, the Gem of the Ocean" .... VOCAL CHORUS.
Accompanied by Burger's Band.
Presentation of Memorial Medals ..... H. FRANK ESHLEMAN, ESQ.
To Mrs. F. G. Mitchell, followed by Band selection, "Dixie."
To Peter Woods, followed by "Old Black Joe."
Salutation of the American Flag ..... CHILDREN OF THE SCHOOLS.
Music, "Star Spangled Banner" ..... BURGER'S FOURTH REGIMENT BAND.
Short Addresses ..... By the Governors of Pennsylvania and Maryland; Representatives in Congress of Lancaster and Chester Counties; Francis Fisher Kane, Esq., and others.
Vocal Chorus, "Suanee River" ..... BURGER'S BAND.
Benediction ..... REV. CLIFTON HARRIS, of the Atglen Baptist Church.

This Indenture Made the third day of September in the Year of our LORD Eighteen Hundred Between Thomas Henderson of Salisbury Township, Lancaster, County, State of Pennsylvania, and a Negro woman Named Venus, Lately his Slave and by him Manumitted witnesseth that the said Negro woman Named Venus hath bound her Self a Servant to the Said Thomas Henderson and by these presents doth of her own free and Voluntary Will and Accord bind herself to him the Said Thomas Henderson and his Heirs for and during the full end and term of two & a half Years from and after the date of these Presents, faithfully to serve, his Secrets keep his Lawfull Commands Gladly do and obey, and to demean and behave her Self as becomes a good and faithfull Servant to him and all his family during, and to the full end of Said time —

And the Said Thomas Henderson and his Heirs Shall and will provide for the Said Servant, sufficient meat, drink washing, Lodging, and apparel for and during the Said term of time — In witness Whereof they have hereunto Set their hands and Seals the day and year first above written —

before Signing it is agreed That Said Thomas Henderson or His Heirs Shall and will at the expiration of the above two Years and Six Months give unto the Said Venus a New Wheel for Spinning on and a New Chaff Bed — in Witness Whereof they have hereunto Set their hands and Seals, day and date first above written —

in presents of —
Samuel Houstes
Ann Call

Thomas Henderson (Seal)

Venus her Camble (Seal)
mark —

NEGRO SERVITUDE IN LANCASTER COUNTY, PA., A. D. 1800.

The Christiana Riot.

'Twas here that first was heard the thrilling cry
  Which pealed the knell of bondage thro' the land;
'Twas here that first our people took the stand
  Which cleansed us from the guilt of slavery—
Ye call it Riot! Lo! it made men free!
It was a trumpet call, clear, loud and grand,
  And in good time, obeying its command
We heard our Union speak for Liberty.
  Here slavery first died. The blood shed here
  Destroyed the chains of every trembling slave;
It bound the Nation with a link more dear
  And took from us a stigma dark and grave.
So thus we mark this fair September morn,
  Where bondage perished, and free men were born!

Mary N. Robinson.

"RETREAT FARM." HOME OF THE GORSUCHES.

BETWEEN MONKTON AND GLENCOE, BALTIMORE CO., MD.